



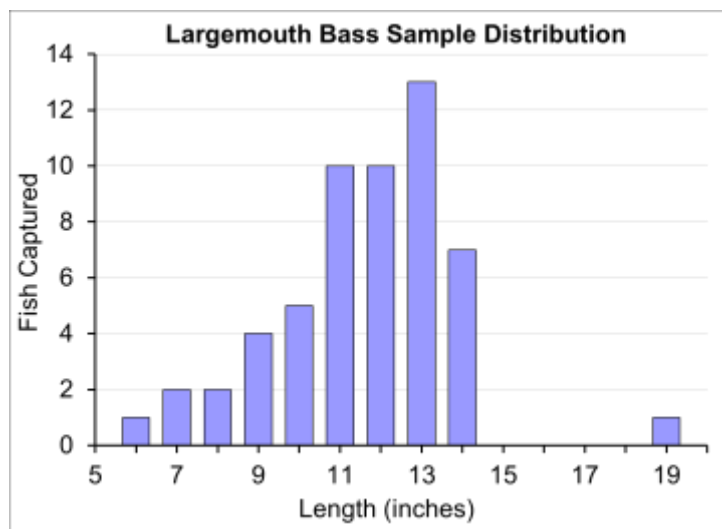
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fishery Information Sheet

LAKE: Kathryn Lake

COUNTY: Taylor

YEAR: 2018

Kathryn Lake is a 62-acre drained lake with an outlet, but no inlet stream. Maximum depth is 58 feet, average depth is 15 feet, and 11% of its surface area is less than 3 feet deep. Water clarity is low and nutrient levels are moderately high. The fish community occasionally had winterkill losses when decomposing plant material depleted dissolved oxygen in late winter. Since 1987 shoreland residents have operated a lake aerator to circulate water and maintain a small, ice-free area where atmospheric oxygen can dissolve, and fish may find better conditions for survival. In late spring 2018 when water temperature was 72°F, WDNR assessed bass and panfish populations by electrofishing.

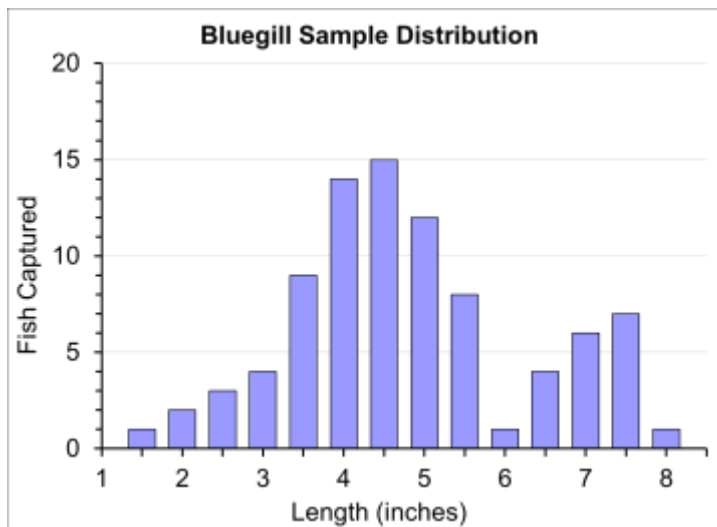


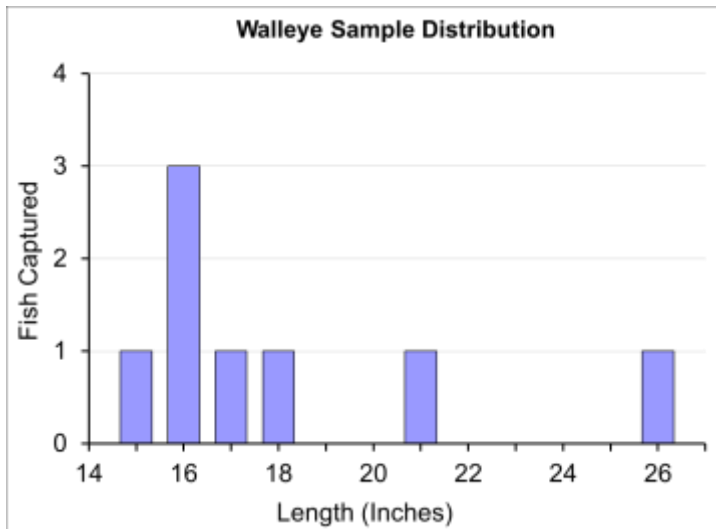
Largemouth Bass

We captured 55 largemouth bass ranging 6.6 – 19.4" and averaging 12.0" long. Our capture rates of 20 bass $\geq 8"$ per mile and 43 per hour represented moderate bass numbers. The same measures showed bass abundance was about 70% higher in spring 2015. Unless bass are growing so slowly that most die of natural causes before they reach 15 inches, the scarcity of large fish suggests that anglers may be harvesting many bass as soon as they reach legal size at 14".

Bluegill

Electrofishing yielded a sample of 87 bluegills, ranging 1.6 – 8.3" and averaging 5.0" long. Our capture rates of 156 bluegills $\geq 3"$ per mile and 352 per hour indicated moderately high abundance that undoubtedly is hindering bluegill size structure, but not to the extent we often see in crowded populations where food competition is more intense. About 15% of bluegills $\geq 3"$ were 7" or longer, compared to 39% in late spring 2015 when electrofishing captured 550 bluegills per hour in a small subsample.





Walleye

We typically use early spring netting and electrofishing surveys to characterize walleye population status, but such evaluations are unforeseeable for Kathryn Lake. Our non-targeted catch of 8 walleye 15.9 – 26.4" suggests that at least some of the 2,390 walleyes reared in local ponds under a cooperative agreement between WDNR and the Rib Lake Area Fish & Game Association and stocked as 6- to 7-inch fingerlings in 2008 – 2018 are surviving to help control panfish abundance and provide bonus fishing opportunity. Under current harvest regulations

all but one walleye in our small sample was legal size.

For questions or additional information contact:

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